

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00  
PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 MCE-00 /079 W  
-----015660 270151Z /14

R 252013Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4818  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
USINT BAGHDAD  
DIA WASHDC

S E C R E T PARIS 02423

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2  
TAGS: MILI, MASS, SO  
SUBJ: ARMS SHIPMENTS TO SOMALIA

REFS: A. STATE 1770. B. DAO PARIS 210826Z JAN 78.

1. THIS REFERS TO CITE NO. C-F-7-55026.
2. WE CONSULT FREQUENTLY WITH GOF OFFICIALS ON VARIOUS LEVELS ON THE SITUATION ON THE HORN AND IN SOMALIA. ON THE QUESTION OF ARMS SUPPLIES TO SOMALIA THE INFORMATION WE HAVE GOTTEN HAS BEEN LARGELY OF A GENERAL NATURE CORRESPONDING TO INFORMATION ALREADY  
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AVAILABLE THROUGH OTHER SOURCES. WE BELIEVE THAT THE RELATIVELY MEAGER INFORMATION TO DATE FROM THE FRENCH REFLECTS THEIR OWN INTELLIGENCE PICTURE RATHER THAN ANY RELUCTANCE TO SHARE THE INFORMATION WITH US. AS THE REF B REPORT FROM DAO PARIS INDICATES, THE FRENCH ARE BEGINNING TO WORK THE PROBLEM AND WE ANTICIPATE MORE DETAILED INFORMATION WILL BECOME AVAILABLE FROM

OUR CONTACTS.

3. ON THE GENERAL SUBJECT OF SOMALI ARMS REQUIREMENTS, A HIGH-LEVEL SOURCE AT THE ELYSEE INFORMS US THAT THE SOMALIS IN TALKING TO THE GOF HAVE DEFINED THEIR MAIN NEEDS AS BEING IN THE AREAS OF AIRCRAFT, AIR DEFENSE WEAPONS, AND ARTILLERY. ACCORDING TO THE ELYSEE SOURCE, THE SOMALIS CLAIM TO HAVE ADEQUATE ARMOR HAVING TAKEN MORE FROM THE ETHIOPIANS AROUND HARAR AND DIRE DAWA THAN THEY LOST IN THE BATTLES THERE. THESE CAPTURED TANKS ARE LARGELY OF SOVIET TYPE. THIS RELATIVELY HEALTHY SITUATION IN ARMOR IS VITIATED, HOWEVER, BY THE LACK OF AIR DEFENSE CAPABILITY WHICH LEAVES THE SOMALI TANKS EXPOSED TO ETHIOPIAN AIR ATTACK. THE ELYSEE SOURCE DOES NOT SEE ANY POSSIBLE SOURCE FOR AIRCRAFT ESPECIALLY AS THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE PROVIDED WITH CREWS TO FLY AND MAINTAIN THEM. HE BELIEVES SOMALI PROSPECTS FOR OBTAINING ARTILLERY ARE SIMILARLY GRIM.

4. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE FRENCH THEMSELVES HAVE PROVIDED ANY WEAPONS TO SOMALIA THOUGH A JUNE 1977 OFFER OF 15,000 SMALL ARMS FOR THE MILITIA IS STILL OUTSTANDING. A DECISION TO PROVIDE EVEN STRICTLY DEFENSIVE WEAPONS BEYOND THIS WOULD BE TAKEN ONLY AFTER DELIBERATION AT THE VERY HIGHEST LEVEL BECAUSE  
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OF FRENCH CONCERN FOR THE CONTINUED INDEPENDENCE OF FORMER COLONY DJIBOUTI, AND THE FEAR THAT ETHIOPIAN PRESSURE ON DJIBOUTI MIGHT INCREASE DRAMATICALLY IF FRANCE WERE JUDGED TO HAVE TILTED DECISIVELY TOWARDS SOMALIA. GAMMON

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARMS, ARMS SHIPMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978PARIS02423  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X2  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**TAGS:** MILI, MASS, SO, FT  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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